

Meeting Minutes

Police & Fire Commission

August 15, 2006, 4:01 p.m.

Roll Call: Commissioners Judy, Meyer and Taylor

Commissioner Schleih, excused

Also Present: Fire Chief Mark Barnes, Police Chief Jeff Morris, Fire Department employees: John Zinda and Charles Skibba

Index of these Minutes:

2. Adjourn into executive session (approximately 4:00 p.m.) pursuant to Wis. Stats. ss. 19.85 (1) (b), (c) and (e) for the following:  
a. Firefighter/Paramedic Applicant Interviews  
b. Updates on Police and Fire labor negotiations, mediation, arbitration and personnel issues
3. Reconvene into open session (approximately 4:45 p.m.) for possible action on items 2(a) and 2(b).
4. People to be heard and announcements
5. Approval of Minutes
6. Confirmation of Bills
7. Fire Chief's Report
8. Donation - Police Department
9. Review of Internal Survey Response and Resolution Committee report
10. Police Chief's Report
11. Adjournment

2. Adjourn into executive session (approximately 4:00 p.m.) pursuant to Wis. Stats. ss. 19.85(1) (b), (c), (e) and (f) for the following:
    - a. Firefighter/Paramedic Applicant Interviews
    - b. Updates on Police and Fire labor negotiations, mediation, arbitration and personnel issues
- Commissioner Meyer moved, seconded by Commissioner Taylor, to adjourn into executive session.

Roll call: Ayes: Commissioners Judy, Meyer and Taylor  
Nays: None. Motion carried.

3. Reconvene into open session (approximately 4:45 p.m.) for possible action on items 2(a) and 2(b)

Commissioner Taylor moved, seconded by Commissioner Meyer, to reconvene into open session.

Roll call: Ayes: Commissioners Judy, Meyer and Taylor  
Nays: None. Motion carried.

Commissioner Meyer moved, seconded by Commissioner Taylor, to approve six firefighter/paramedic applicants to the Fire Department eligibility list subject to the completion of all department and city hiring eligibility requirements for the position of firefighter/paramedic. The Fire Chief will determine the ranking list of the firefighter/paramedic applicants.

Ayes: Commissioners Judy, Meyer and Taylor  
Nays: None. Motion carried.

4. People to be heard and announcements

None.

5. Approval of Minutes

Commissioner Taylor moved, seconded by Commissioner Meyer, to approve the minutes of July 11, 2006.

Ayes, all; nays, none. Motion carried.

6. Confirmation of Bills

Commissioner Meyer moved, seconded by Commissioner Taylor, to accept the confirmation of the July 2006 bills.

Ayes, all; nays, none. Motion carried.

7. Fire Chief's Report:

Chief Barnes reported:

- In 2005 the Department applied for a FEMA grant to finish the in-station total capture vehicle exhaust system and to implement a physical fitness program. The grant was approved in 2005 but there wasn't enough funding available. However, in closing the grant period, residual funds have been found and the Chief was notified the Fire Department would now be receiving 90% of \$123,776.00.
- There are concerns for future response capability to hazardous material spills in Portage County.
- Firefighter/Paramedic Armando Ramon will be activated and deployed for one year. His departure is scheduled for sometime in October.
- The Fire Department will be taking Rescue-1 to Green Bay on Friday, August 18th to attend a funeral for Firefighter Arnie Wolff who was killed in the line of duty. Portage County RRU will be in service. The Plover Fire Department will cover confined space rescue.
- The chief distributed his 90-day work plan.
- ESCI's study of the EMS system will be unveiled on Thursday, August 17th.

Commissioner Meyer moved, seconded by Commissioner Taylor, to approve the Fire Chief's Report for July, 2006.

Ayes, all; nays, none. Motion carried.

8. Donation - Police Department

Commissioner Taylor moved, seconded by Commissioner Meyer, to approve a \$50.00 donation from the Stevens Point Noon Lions Club to the Safety Cadet Program.

Ayes, all; nays, none. Motion carried.

#### 9. Review of Internal Survey Response and Resolution Committee Report

Commissioner Taylor discussed the completed Internal Response and Resolution Committee report.

#### 10. Police Chief's Report

Chief Morris reported:

- **The Department was involved in another homicide investigation in July. The offender came to the Records Bureau window and confessed to killing someone.** Roxanne did an excellent job in alerting Detective Kussow and keeping the individual calm while help arrived. The investigation determined the incident actually occurred in Portage County's jurisdiction. We worked with the county to see the case through to arrest.
- **Another significant arrest involved an arrest for the first time in our area under the "Len Bias" law which holds those who sell drugs criminally accountable when one of their customers dies after using drugs purchased illegally.**
- **The patrol unit has been extremely short handed this summer due to vacations, family medical leaves, light duty and military leave situations.** This will reflect on the overtime budget this year.
- **The strategic planning process will begin in September and should culminate with a completed document in late March.**
- **The Department is beginning the budget preparation for 2007. The capital budget draft will be given to Mayor Wescott by August 16th and a draft of the operations budget will be submitted by September 1st.**
- **Accreditation status: Captain Dowling made contact with the President of the WIPAC, Deputy Chief Kopp of the Janesville Police Department.** Kopp acknowledged receipt of our letter and indicated we are and will remain accredited until they are ready to make an inspection. This could be as long as another year.
- **Information Technology Update: The process of maintaining connectivity between the computers in the squads and the station had been progressing well.** The Department recently began experiencing significant issues again. Update: Work continues with Jay to make this wireless system reliable and functional. We are exploring using the County's 800 MGHZ radio system to transmit some of our data. This solution would allow communication redundancy and extend the range of certain day to day functions beyond the city limits.
- **Candy Tork returned to the Police Department after one week in Public Works. This means there is currently one vacant Records Bureau secretary position to fill.** The applicants have been narrowed to five. They are completing their skills tests and background checks. Final interviews will be held within the next two weeks and a conditional offer of employment will be made through the Personnel Department soon.
- **We have started the promotional process for filling the anticipated sergeant's vacancy in November. The candidate for promotion should be ready for the PFC interview in November.**
- **We received 88 applications for police officer. The test was scheduled for August 12th. We will proceed through the normal steps of the recruitment process with an anticipated interview date sometime in November.**
- **The Chief was notified by the Office of Justice Assistance that the Department may be eligible to receive a grant for one uniformed patrol officer for the years 2007-2009 based on the City's UCR crime statistics.** If the Department is awarded this grant the Chief would like to add one officer to the Detective Bureau to help with the heavy workload of that Bureau.

Note: A copy of the Police Chief's written report to the Commission is on file at the Office of the City Clerk and is available for inspection during normal business hours from 7:30 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.

Commissioner Taylor moved, seconded by Commissioner Meyer, to approve the Police Chief's report for July, 2006.

Ayes, all; nays, none. Motion carried.

#### 11. Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 6:10 p.m.

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